

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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TO: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

FROM: Lori Hutchinson, Vaccine Coordinator
Montana Immunization Program

DATE: April 26, 2012

SUBJECT: **Pentacel® Shortage**

Sanofi pasteur and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently notified the Montana Immunization Program of a supply shortage affecting Pentacel®, a combination vaccine containing diphtheria and tetanus toxoids, acellular pertussis adsorbed, inactivated poliovirus, and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b conjugate antigens. The shortage is expected to last through the summer and affects public (VFC) and private vaccine supplies.

Pentacel® in the Montana VFC Program

Until the shortage is over, each month the CDC will allocate a fixed number of Pentacel® doses to the Montana Immunization Program. We don't anticipate a major impact to our supply, but please be aware that orders may be reduced by as much as a third in order to equitably distribute our allocation. Clinics ordering Pentacel® may choose to order other combination or single-antigen products during the shortage.

Beginning May 1, 2012 until further notice, please adhere to the following guidelines when ordering Pentacel® through the Montana VFC Program:

1. Order Pentacel® along with your other vaccines by following the usual procedure—submitting a paper order form to Home IV Pharmacy either by mail or fax (followed by a mailed copy).
2. Order forms requesting Pentacel® must be received at Home IV Pharmacy by the 10th of each month. This is five days earlier than the usual deadline (15th) and will allow us to assess orders and make reductions, if necessary. Orders received after the 10th may be excluded from our monthly allocation.
3. You will be notified if your order is reduced and will have an opportunity to modify your order to make up for any reduction in Pentacel® doses.

(Over)

4. Please do not over-order Pentacel® vaccine. We will continue to evaluate all orders against past usage and will strive to equitably distribute our allocation.
5. In the VFC Program, this shortage only affects Pentacel® and does not affect DAPTACEL® (DTaP), other DTaP-containing combination vaccines, or single-antigen vaccines.

Private Pentacel® Supply

Although this shortage only affects Pentacel® in the public vaccine supply, it affects Pentacel® and DAPTACEL® in the private market. Please contact John Larkin, Division Sales Manager for sanofi pasteur, with questions regarding private vaccine allocations. john.larkin@sanofipasteur.com 303-324-2280.

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